

ANOTHER SNOW

Snow was falling outside... I woke up with a start. I jumped out of bed and hopped into warm white slippers. When I got downstairs, my mother was in her nightgown and the walls were covered in holly and other Christmas decorations. But when I turned to mother, I didn't see the Christmas spirit she always has. Instead, I felt like I had just opened the worst present ever. My face fell when I saw tears all over her eyes. She stopped stirring the pot full of tomato soup and walked toward me. I hesitated to hug her but she beat me to it and she cried into my sleeve as she whispered to me "*I'm so sorry.*" At first I didn't know what she was talking about until I saw the ripped envelope with cream colored paper on the kitchen table that said in clear letters *DISAPPEARED*. I was shocked. My father who left for war a month ago was gone. I looked for more information but all I found was the dreaded words that nobody wanted to see. *Assumed dead*. That was it, no other things. I didn't want to cry, but it came out immediately.

Me and mother stayed home three more weeks doing things that normally we wouldn't do such as, putting up the blue star flag. The blue star flag is something that you would put up if you got a letter like ours. Then I went to school the next day. Something told me that things were not going to go like always. And it didn't. I was teased and embarrassed by friends. But worst of all, one day when I got home, mother was crying and waiting for me on the front porch steps and she said, "*I can't afford it darling, we have to go away.*" After those words I had swallowed my breath and together silently we stepped in the house and a soldier with a cold glare ripped of my backpack and shook the contents out. "*UP!*" He roared and frightfully me and mother walked upstairs and began to pack our bags. We were only allowed to bring eleven things so I packed a scarf, a coat, mittens, my nightgown, an everyday dress, and more.

The soldiers split me and mother up into groups and I was put into a different group! I saw in mother's eyes that she pleaded me not to say anything so I stayed quiet. A half an hour later, I woke up in mother's arms and I looked up to her and she realized that I was awake and put me down. "*You have to be careful.*" she said in a warning voice. "*I just escaped from them and they are hot on my trail.*" she said. I nodded and we turned a corner as she said "*This is your father's base.*" We were beat an hour later and the dawn was growing as we took every step slowly making sure not to wake anyone. I was shivering and almost asleep when the town clock rang twelve times for twelve o'clock far far away. My mother looked at me and I could tell that she wanted to go on but she stopped for me and helped me into fresh clothes. We spent the night in a log cabin with the other ladies that ran away too. In the morning I went downstairs and I realized that I was the only child but I didn't mind. We had cold porridge for breakfast and after that we set off again. But before we left, one of the ladies named Tasha stopped us and said, "*We didn't want to ask for help, but last night after both of you fell asleep we found someone and he is in the hearth room.*"

Mother rushed to the hearth room to help and an hour later she came back with her eyes shining. "*We found him darling! We did!*" Who? I wanted to ask but before I could say anything she lead me into the hearth room and left me. I circled around the room until I found a large chair. I saw brown hair and I could only have one guess on who it was. "*Father?*" I whispered. He turned around in his chair and I nearly fainted when I saw father's face. I ran to him as fast as I could and leaped onto his lap. I buried my face in his shoulder and he hugged me tightly. "*Dana*" he whispered my name slowly, like he couldn't believe I was there. On the day we left, it was snowing. "*Papa its snowing!*" I said. He smiled and held me tight. *Another snow* I thought.